

Dominguez Land Sells Holdings to Brokers for Big Development

Sale of all remaining property held by the Dominguez Land Corporation, original subdividers of Torrance, to Clarence Birney, prominent Los Angeles real estate broker, was announced today. Associated with Birney in the deal is his old-time friend, Arthur A. Helwig, wealthy Chicago financier. All assets of the Industrial Housing Company were also purchased by Birney.

The transfer involves houses, lots, contracts and acreage held by the 30-year-old Dominguez Land Corporation, which will be immediately dissolved, according to its officials.

Birney states that he plans to develop the vacant property acquired from Dominguez Land. He plans to erect moderate priced homes to be sold on easy terms with small down payments. Because of the almost unlimited capital at his disposal, Birney states that he will finance these improvements without federal or other outside financial aid.

Start Building Immediately
He estimates that after subdividing the acreage, he will have approximately 600 lots available for building purposes. The first group of houses will be started immediately, Birney states.

While he did not reveal the price paid to Dominguez Land for its holdings, Birney states that the property was purchased far below present market values, which will enable him to re-sell it at very attractive prices and terms.

Birney has been a real estate broker since 1922, and in recent years has specialized in closing out bank holdings. In the last two and a half years he states that he has sold over 3,500 pieces of property in the Los Angeles area. He plans to erect an office building in Torrance from which headquarters he will carry on the former Dominguez Land and Industrial Housing company properties.

Arthur Helwig, who has been Birney's associate in many of his real estate operations, is vice-president of three substantial railroad supply companies, and is identified with other important business interests in Chicago.

Formed by City Founder
While transfer of Dominguez real estate holdings to more aggressive owners is expected to provide much needed relief to the acute housing shortage in Torrance and will no doubt be an important step toward the passing out of existence of Dominguez Land Corporation, Birney notes of eagerness to old-timers in this community who recall its colorful career. In its 30-year corporate life, Dominguez Land has run the full gamut of business experience from direct adversity to abundant success.

Organized in February, 1911. (Continued on Page 4-A)

Building Lags Here in 1940

New construction in Torrance during 1940 lagged some \$70,000 behind the building total for 1939 and city engineering department reported today that the 12 months just passed was the poorest in building activity since 1935.

The year's total was \$421,417 as compared to \$591,553 in 1939. December building permits amounted to \$89,335 as compared with \$14,560 in 1939. There were 290 permits issued last year and 368 in 1939.

Following are the yearly totals in new building here for the past decade:

Year	Total
1940	\$421,417
1939	591,553
1938	3,143,873
1937	1,066,057
1936	453,978
1935	204,895
1934	138,807
1933	637,811
1932	789,888
1931	102,690
1930	417,887

MARCH OF RIMES

WHAT PRICE WORRY? — By H. F. NOAKE

This message is directed to folks who like to worry, advising you to organize and do so in a hurry. Omniscient individuals are spreading it about that worry, like bubonic plague should be included out. They're claiming worry is the cause of people going berserk, that more have died from worry, than ever died from work. Well, maybe, but the most of us who worry will agree one virtue recommends it, it's absolutely free. What joy a new day brings to folks who've worried half the night, to find 'twas just a false alarm and everything's all right. So organize, you worriers, prepare to ward off the ax, in case some cockeyed Congressman passes a "Worry Tax."

NOAKE

ILLEGAL SURGERY CASES SET

January 7 has been set for preliminary hearings of three women and three men on charges of performing illegal operations in the Keystone district, following their arraignment late last week in Los Angeles municipal court.

The county grand jury now is in recess and will resume sessions after the first of the year, and before the preliminary hearing date may have gone into the entire matter of a reported abortion ring, it was said this week.

One specific illegal operation and preparations to perform others were charged in complaints issued by Deputy District Attorney Grant B. Cooper. He indicated, however, that these complaints were merely stopgaps and that direct indictments will be sought from the grand jury. This will bring the group promptly into the superior court without recourse to preliminary hearings which will then be abandoned.

Two out on Writs

Those arraigned were Mrs. Esther Ramsey, 29, 1011 223rd street, and her husband, Claude Ramsey, 39; Grace Bales, 51, 947 Neptune street, Wilmington; Lillian Foster, 30, 1141 Marine street, Wilmington; Stanley Watson, 38, 618 Opp street, San Pedro. All were able to put up bond and secure release following their arraignment. They were represented in court by Attorneys George Stahlman and Robert Ford.

Before the arraignment proceedings could be reached, writs of habeas corpus had set free Mrs. May Ramsey, 57, mother of Claude Ramsey and also known as "Ma" and "Doc" in the ring and William Crissman, 50, 1120 East 59th street, Los Angeles. Mrs. Ramsey gained her liberty under a \$10,000 bond while Crissman was permitted liberty under a \$1,500 bond.

Eleven other persons were taken into custody during the proceedings. (Continued on Page 5-A)

Transom-Burglars Ransack City Hall Under Cops' Noses

Clambering over five transoms in the city hall only a few feet from police headquarters, marauders thoroughly ransacked desks in five offices, made off with \$10 in cash and greatly embarrassed the guardians of the law last Friday night.

If police officers ever catch up with the transom-burglars they intend to have the culprits demonstrate just how they entered the various offices without cracking a single transom glass. It should be a feat worth watching.

After scaling over the El Prado entrance door to the city hall, the agile marauders entered City Judge Lessing's office by the same route, went all through his files but did not take anything. Leaving that room by the door, they broke into City Attorney John E. McCall's office, pried open his inner door with a small replica in bronze of Radio City, New York, and went thru his papers.

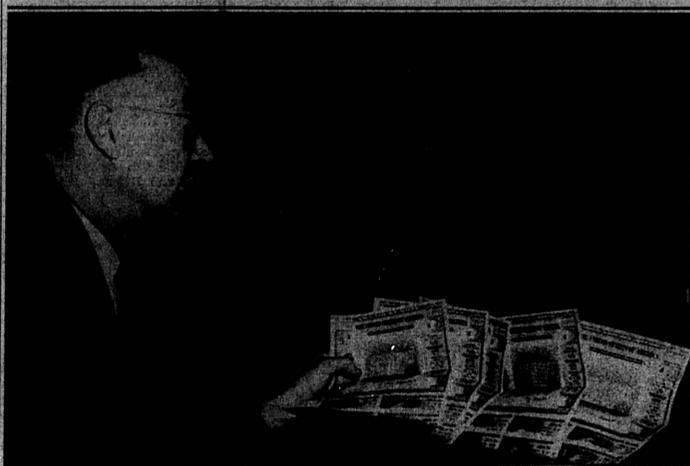
Next they entered the city engineer's department and took \$10 in change from Glenn Jain's desk. The city clerk's office was entered via the transom and A. H. Bartlett's files were pawed over. Unable to gain entry thru the door into the mayor's office, the acrobatic intruders again squirmed thru the transom and ransacked that room, leaving by the corridor door. They finally left the building thru the police department's dark-room at the end of the main corridor and went out thru a door which was left open.

Police officers have been "very touchy" since the wholesale ransacking about remarks to the effect: "How come you fellows allowed the city hall to be burglarized right under your noses?"

TO ELECT OFFICERS

Members of the Torrance Camera (movie) club will elect officers for 1941 at their meeting next Wednesday night, Jan. 8, at the Chamber of Commerce. All amateur movie makers are invited to join the club. There are no dues.

First U.S. Taxable Bonds Held by Torrance Bank



J. WALLACE POST and BONDS NOS. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
Federal securities only earn 3/4th of one percent

Bearing serial numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, five engraved pieces of paper that represent \$10,000 each have been received by the Torrance National Bank from the U. S. Treasury Department. The bonds, initial certificates of the first taxable issue put out by the Federal government were purchased when the securities were put on the market recently.

Despite the fact that they are taxable, the securities were eight times over-subscribed by purchasers when they were

placed on sale, according to J. Wallace Post, president of the local bank. The 500 million dollar issue which matures in 1945, earns but three-fourths of one per cent, the lowest interest rate on any U. S. bonds.

Post made no special effort to obtain the first five bonds, they were issued to the local bank according to purchase order, but he prizes them above other securities owned by the bank because of their initial

series numbers.

The Treasury reported this week that \$70,200,000,000 of tax exempt securities were outstanding on June 20 and that a study is being made of the possibility of removing tax exemptions from future issues of governmental securities. The administration has favored removal of the present exemptions on Federal issues, with the expectation that state and local units might take similar steps.

New Auto Plates Being Issued in Torrance

Promptly at 9 o'clock this morning, Manager Leonard E. Tristram opened the Torrance branch office of the California Motor Vehicle Department and began issuing 1941 automobile licenses to a score or more motorists waiting in line. The office is located at 1324 El Prado, next to the Safeway parking lot.

First to obtain auto and motorcycle plates this morning was J. Leslie Trudgdon of 1634 Arlington avenue. Second in line was R. E. Olsen of Lomita who claimed the second and third auto license plates. Thruout the day lines of 20 or more were backed up behind the office windows as motorists paid for and claimed their 1941 numbers.

Manager Tristram pointed out the following salient facts concerning issuance of the new plates:

Fee on White Slip

The amount of the fee, as shown on the lower left hand corner of the 1940 registration card (white slip) must be presented with the card and plates will be delivered immediately.

Currency, post office or bank money orders or cashier's and certified checks are acceptable. Personal checks, however, will not be accepted.

The total amount shown on the registration card includes the registration or license plate

fee and the vehicle license or "in lieu" fee.

Registration cards should be properly signed by the registered owner on the reverse side when presented and all changes of address both of county, city and street should be noted. If the applicant for plates lives in a county other than that shown on his registration card he should indicate the county of which he is a bona fide resident.

Deadline, Feb. 4
Applicants for plates, who have completed payments on cars during the previous year and have become the legal owners should also present certificates of ownership (pink slip) and an additional fee of \$1 for transfer of title.

Deadline for renewal is Feb. 4, those applying later than that date must pay a penalty equal to the total amount of the fee. Tristram said applications received later than that date, will be subject to the penalties under a recent amendment to the statutes.

\$214,400 Chinchillas Soon To be at Walteria Farm

An increase from 40 to 76 pair of chinchillas, whose total value is estimated at \$214,400, is anticipated this month at the A. B. Stegner farm in Walteria, it was learned this week.

Many of the valuable little rodents are Stegner's property and the remainder are "boarded" at his establishment by out-of-town owners. For the present, the animals are being used for breeding

purposes as are most of those in the nation.

Chinchilla pelts for milady's coat now come almost entirely from "casualty" pelts—skins of animals that die. The last such coat brought \$35,000 thru a Hollywood furrer, according to Stegner.

The Walteria breeder says chinchillas are the cleanest of any animals—yet, for bathing, they use only dust.

Pictures . . .

171 local photos published in 1940 and more to come

In this first issue of The Herald's 27th year you will find a page of local pictures . . . photos taken by this newspaper's own staff photographer, processed in its own darkroom during the past 12 months.

Herald photos have enlivened the pages of this newspaper thruout 1940 and have added much to the interest of local news stories. Advertisers, too, found The Herald's photo service an invaluable aid in finding customers of special attractions.

During 1941 The Herald will publish more local pictures than ever—and 171 appeared in the past 12 months—to make YOUR home-town newspaper the living historian of the 51 eventful weeks to come.

Three Hurt Here in First Traffic Collision of '41

Nineteen forty-one was less than five hours old when the first traffic casualties of the new year were being investigated by local police and Harry D. Shriner, 53, Gardena, was booked for driving while intoxicated. During 1940 only one fatality was recorded here altho 62 were reported injured by police.

Three young people were injured when Shriner, assertedly driving east at a high rate of speed on 190th street, struck Norman O. Dehner's stopped car near Arlington and grazed Ruth E. Carr, 20, and Bunny E. Brown, 23, both of Gardena, Dehner's passengers, and Ronald Mullins, 19, Pasadena, who was with Joseph Darrah, South Pasadena.

Dehner, 25, Los Angeles had attempted to turn his car around on 190th about 5 a. m. New Year's Day and mired his front wheels in the ditch. The rear wheels of his machine were on the paved portion of the street, according to police. He was being helped out of the ditch by Darrah, who was accompanied by Mullins and Ruth Jacobson, Alhambra.

Too Drunk to Book
Darrah's passengers were standing on the east side of Dehner's car while Dehner's friends were in his stalled machine when Shriner's car approached. Dehner told police he flashed his lights to warn the Gardena but Shriner made no attempt to turn out of the way or stop. Shriner, police reported, hit Dehner's machine, knocking it 30 feet east. Shriner's car then continued for 70 feet, climbed a four-foot embankment and jolted 70 feet more into a plowed field before coming to a stop.

Victims of the collision were treated for cuts and bruises. When Officers Tolson and Casullo brought Shriner to police headquarters he was reported "too drunk" to give all information for booking. Later he was released on \$100 bail to appear Jan. 7 at 10 a. m. for trial.

EXCHANGE POSITIONS

A Torrance and a Lomita postal worker exchanged jobs on New Year's Day. Claire Urquhart, Torrance mail carrier on route 3, and LeRoy Backlund, Lomita postal clerk, switched positions.

SCHOOL RESUMES

All schools resumed classwork this morning following the New Year's holiday.

Volunteers Make Up Half of Next Draft Quota in This Area

No official instructions have been received by Selective Service Board No. 280, which serves this community, altho reports have been published in metropolitan newspapers that the next draft induction is scheduled for Jan. 29. At that time, according to these reports, the local draft board will furnish 22 men for a year's Army training.

Three Lomitans Held for Deadly Assault Trials

As a result of three separate and distinct battles that ranged from Narbonne and 101 to Newton and 101 early Christmas morning, three Lomitans are awaiting Superior court trials on charges of assault with a deadly weapon. One, Mrs. Alma Brown, 29, 2214 1/2 Lomita boulevard, is accused of wielding a knife or some sharp instrument on Clayton Beaudry, 26, of Hawthorne, to such an extent that he had to have 103 stitches taken on his body to close his wounds.

He testified last Thursday at preliminary examination that he was slashed from shoulder almost to ankle and his clothing, entered as evidence, bore witness to the bloody encounter.

In addition to Mrs. Brown, who was placed in the role of inciter to two of the fistic battles, those held for arraignment Jan. 18 in Dept. 41 of the Superior court are Phillip Keeley, 30, of 2714 1/2 24th street, and Noel Temple, 26, who gave the same address as Mrs. Brown.

First Fight at Garage
Shortly after midnight Christmas Day, Beaudry and a friend, Max Merrill, 15, of Hawthorne, stopped to fix a tire at a garage and 101. They needed a jack and applied at a house in the rear of a garage at that intersection for aid. Keeley, according to preliminary hearing testimony by Beaudry and Merrill—the only witnesses examined—offered them assistance but was unable to locate a

(Continued on Page 5-A)

Dr. Laughon Elected Chief of Hospital's Staff of Physicians

Dr. W. I. Laughon, well-known Torrance physician and surgeon, was elected chief of staff of Torrance Memorial hospital at a recent meeting of all physicians accredited with the institution. Dr. E. G. Butt of Redondo Beach was re-elected secretary to the staff.

The new hospital chief came to Torrance in February 1937 and joined forces with Dr. W. J. Harrison last April, establishing a splendidly equipped suite of offices at 1339 Post avenue. Dr. Laughon received his degree from the Medical College of Virginia at Richmond and prior to coming here was a member of the surgical staff of the Golden State hospital in Los Angeles for a number of years.

Dr. and Mrs. Laughon have contributed much toward the civic and social life of the community, their new home at 1422 El Prado furnishing a gracious setting for many parties, among them being a highly successful garden fete for the Red Cross last summer.

WALTERIAN ENJOYS FUN AND PROFIT IN SANTA CLAUSING

Now it can be told . . . Impersonator of Santa Claus on the night of Nov. 27—when the 1940 Christmas shopping season of hectic memory was launched in Torrance and again at the Torrance Fireman's Yule party Dec. 23 was a Walteria resident who has gone in for Clausing in a big way.

For eleven months of the year, George Deway Holdbrand of 24410 Nece avenue is a construction worker, laboring in overalls, workshirt and heavy shoes.

But come Dec. 1 he takes a vacation, puts his work-a-day clothes away in a closet and gets out a more colorful garb, the creation of his wife. With the red velvet and white fur-trimmed garments of large proportions, he takes a pair of shiny riding boots, some leather gloves trimmed with silver tinsel and a fine white wig and beard out of storage.

Holdbrand started Santa Clausing a couple of years ago and found it both profitable and exhilarating. In 1939 he made nearly \$200 in less than two weeks and this Yuletide was forced to employ two assistants—both garbed in fine costumes—to meet a heavy schedule of Santa engagements.

The Walterian makes an excellent appearance in the role of St. Nick—but he admits he needs some public speaking training (especially over public address systems) to round out his portrayal of the beloved Christmas figure.

Volunteers

Henry Alfred Miller, 15717 S. Normandie, Gardena.

John Kingman Delano, 2317 Sonoma, Torrance.

Enstie Koskela, Rockland, Calif., formerly of Lomita.

Eric Chaplin, 1019 Cota, Torrance.

Raymond Diaz Vargas, Rt. 1, Box 644-C, Lomita.

Frank James Stanley, Rt. 1, Box 92, San Jacinto, formerly of 204 Ocean, Torrance.

Joe Swartz, 1234 W. 236th, Harbor City.

Albert Vincent Rolewicz, 1718 Abalone, Torrance.

Donald Richard Conn, 1145 Magnolia, Gardena.

Bowen Andy Ray, 720 Acacia, Torrance.

Manuel Gardea Alvarez, 2219 1/2 203rd, Torrance.

Draftees
Lloyd Leslie Mize, 1445 W. 145th, Gardena.

Lloyd Pinkney Byrd, 224 W. (Continued on Page 5-A)

Postal Receipts Set New Record

Ring up an all-time record in postal receipts, Postmaster Earl Conner pointed with justifiable pride today to the \$45,405.72 revenue received at the Torrance postoffice during the year just past. This is better than a 13 percent increase over the 1939 total of \$40,180.87, he declared.

The December quarter saw another record established when the Christmas business sent the three-months' total soaring to \$13,416.92 as compared to \$11,584.38 in the last quarter of 1939. Postmaster Conner reported that when he took office in 1934 the December quarter revenue amounted to only \$7,179.15 while the total business during his first year in office was \$26,513.94.

Postal receipts here for the past decade were:

Year	Total
1940	\$45,405.72
1939	40,180.87
1938	38,915.93
1937	40,699.20
1936	36,065.95
1935	31,451.38
1934	25,613.94
1933	20,946.79
1932	20,301.91
1931	23,492.19
1930	29,243.59

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